



Dear camper and kayaker,

A trip into Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve provides an unparalleled opportunity for wilderness and solitude. More than 2,660,000 acres (or 80%) of the park are designated wilderness. Here, you have an opportunity for discovery, inspiration and self-reliance. You are on your own and must completely depend on your skills, equipment and common sense to handle all the challenges presented by this vast and dynamic land. It carries the responsibility of minimizing your impact so that others may also enjoy this untrammelled environment. It is a privilege to experience the wilderness of Glacier Bay National Park on its terms.

## Plan Ahead/Be Well Equipped

Planning ahead is essential for a safe and pleasant backcountry visit to Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. The environment here can be extreme and is often unforgiving to the ill-prepared. Create a checklist of essentials. Food and gear availability is limited in the area. Storing food in bear-resistant food containers is suggested in all areas of the park and required in treeless areas. In forested areas hanging food is a viable option. Bear-resistant food containers are issued at the Visitor Information Station (VIS) located at the Bartlett Cove dock (main dock). Topographical maps and nautical charts are also available for purchase at the VIS. It is strongly recommended that you bring a white gas stove for cooking because white gas is the only fuel available at Bartlett Cove. It is illegal to transport any camp fuel on an aircraft. Since dry wood is hard to come by anywhere in the park, cooking over a fire is not a practical option and is discouraged. Showers, laundry facilities, dormitory rooms and storage are available at Glacier Bay Lodge. Firearms are prohibited within the park. Because it rains a great deal, bring appropriate clothing and camping gear, including waterproof bags to store gear. Rubber boots are best for kayakers and hiking in the rainforest.



## Camper Orientation

**All campers (in the front and backcountry) are required to get a permit and attend a camper orientation.** These permits can be issued at the Visitor Information Station where you will receive a camper orientation. This session is for your benefit: to answer your questions, provide you with a tide table, inform you of special wildlife and safety issues and closures, and to assist in trip planning.

## Campground

A free walk-in campground is located at Bartlett Cove (no reservation necessary). The campground, located  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the lodge, has bear-resistant food caches, a drying shelter, pit toilets, a campfire circle and numerous rainforest campsites. Camping is limited to 14 days. Please register and get a permit at the Visitor Information Station prior to camping.

## Backpacking

More than a million acres await the backcountry traveler. This immense wilderness area has no trails and the terrain is rugged by any standard. Dense alder thickets and steep rocky cliffs can make foot travel very challenging and often impossible. Be prepared to hike over rough and rocky ground. Shoreline and gravel streambeds usually offer the best routes.

## Kayaking

Sea kayaking is a popular way to experience the wilderness of Glacier Bay. Kayak trips can originate from Bartlett Cove or the daily tour boat will drop-off kayakers further up the bay. Reservations are recommended well in advance. If you prefer a guided day and overnight kayak trips these can be arranged by contacting companies listed on the Visitor Services Directory. Kayak rentals are available through Glacier Bay Sea Kayaks in Bartlett Cove. If you are trying to transport a hard-shell kayak to the park, it will have to be transported by boat and not by air.

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### **Camper Drop- off Service**

A Glacier Bay Lodge daily boat drops- off and picks- up backcountry campers and kayakers at designated locations in the upper bay. It is possible to get dropped off at one site and picked up at another. Contact Glacier Bay Lodge at 888- 229- 8686 or online [www.visitglacierbay.com](http://www.visitglacierbay.com)

### **Safety**

Water is usually available, except on islands. All water should be boiled, filtered or treated for *Giardia*. Be aware of the threat of hypothermia and know about its prevention and treatment. Kayakers should be aware of cold water temperatures and consider tidal flow and ranges. Stay clear of all icebergs, which can turn and become a threat to small craft. Stay at least ¼ mile away from the face of a tidewater glacier.

### **Bears**

Both black and brown/grizzly bears are frequently seen throughout the park. These are wild animals and should always be considered to be potentially dangerous. When hiking, lessen your chance of a bear encounter by looking for bear signs, making noise, and traveling in groups. It is important that bears never come in contact with human food, so please NEVER leave food unattended. Keep a clean camp. Store food and any scented items 100 yards from your campsite. Do all cooking and eating in the intertidal zone at least 100 yards from your campsite. If you do encounter a bear, remain calm, identify yourself as a human (talk to the bear) and stand your ground. Do not run. You can not out run a bear and fleeing may trigger the bear's chase response. For more information visit the park web site.

### **Minimize Your Impact**

Choose a campsite where there is little sign of wildlife, a place where you will not leave a trace of your presence or are likely to disturb wildlife. Campsites should be at least 100 feet from fresh water sources. Check at the Visitor Information Station for areas that are closed to backcountry use. Know these areas, and mark them on your maps and charts. Respect the wildlife and do not approach them. Some animals are easily disturbed. You are responsible for knowing and following all applicable regulations during your visit to the park. Glacier Bay is wild, clean and unpolluted. Remember to carry out all trash (do not burn), and use the intertidal zone for human waste, campfires, and preparing and eating food. Generally, the tides will erase traces of your presence.

### **Recycling**



Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve is committed to managing solid waste in an environmentally sustainable manner. The park goal is to divert as much waste from the incinerator as possible. Anticipate the need to sort your waste. There is a sorting station comprised of bear- proof canisters near the Visitor Information Station located at the Bartlett Cove dock. Please take the time to read and follow directions for the separation of the following; paper, aluminum, corrugated cardboard, compost, and *rinsed* steel, glass, and plastics. Everything else goes in the canister marked "trash." Hazardous materials can not be disposed of in Glacier Bay. If you have any questions, please ask a ranger.